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# PROSPECTUS

OF AN ABRIDGMENT

OF

## The Philosophical Transactions,

BY A SOCIETY OF LITERARY GENTLEMEN;

DEDICATED TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

THE PRESIDENT AND FELLOWS

OF THE

ROYAL SOCIETY.

TO THE PUBLIC.

NEARLY half a Century having elapsed, since *any* Abridgment of the PHILOSOPHICAL TRANSACTIONS of the ROYAL SOCIETY has taken place, it is presumed, that a work of this nature will, at this enlightened period, be particularly acceptable to the PUBLIC AT LARGE, as it will embrace every subject the most useful, instructive, and entertaining, in that important and universally approved work, from its commencement to the present time.

The PHILOSOPHICAL TRANSACTIONS now consist of *ninety-two* Quarto Volumes. This invaluable repository, in which the most able and learned men, of the last and preceding century, have exercised their talents, and displayed their depth of research, has, by progressive enlargement, become almost inaccessible to a very great majority of the Public, independently of the consideration of its high price, and the difficulty of procuring a complete set of so voluminous a compilation.

The present design, therefore, is to lay before the Public a Selection or Abridgment of those subjects, treated of in this extensive Work, which, in the present advanced state of Science and Manufactures, may appear to be most useful and instructive as well to the Mechanic, as the Scientific Reader.

IT WILL COMPREHEND

Acoustics,	Mechanics,
Agriculture,	Meteorology
Algebra,	Mineralogy,
Anatomy,	Miscellanies,
Antiquities,	Music,
Architecture,	Navigation,
Arithmetic,	Optics,
Astronomy,	Painting,
Botany,	Perspective,
Chemistry,	Pharmacy,
Chronology,	Philology,
Electricity,	Philosophy, Natural
Fortification,	and Experimental,
Geometry,	Physic,
Grammar,	Pneumatics,
Gunnery,	Ship-building,
History, Natural,	Surveying,
Hydraulics,	Travels,
Hydrostatics,	Trigonometry,
Logarithmotecling,	Voyages,
Longevity,	Zoology, &c. &c.
Magnetics,	

The whole to be arranged in continuation according to their dates and order in each Volume, to be embellished and elucidated by many valuable Engravings, explanatory of the articles deemed worthy of selection.



To make the present Abridgment still more interesting, Portraits, engraved by RIDLEY in his best manner, will occasionally be introduced (where correct likenesses can be procured) of the principal Writers and Contributors to the Original Work.

The Titles of all the Tracts contained in the Original Work, not thought proper for insertion or abridgment, will be noticed in their order, or subjoined by way of Appendix or Supplement to each Volume, with a reference to the Page or Volume to which they belong.

The PHILOSOPHICAL TRANSACTIONS form such a collection of useful knowledge, and curious information, as no Age or Country, but our own, could ever boast of: and to the spontaneous liberality, with which our learned Men devoted their time and labour to the communication of every thing which could render such a work valuable, may be ascribed much of that perfection in Science, Arts, and Manufactures, by which GREAT BRITAIN is so justly distinguished. It must, however, be admitted, that a very great portion of the Tracts in the earlier Volumes has, from subsequent discoveries, become wholly unimportant, or, that later Writers have treated the subjects with greater ability and precision.

A selection, therefore, of such Papers as yet retain their interest, and a correct abridgment of those, which the labours of subsequent Authors have rendered unnecessary to detail, will form the rule of conduct to the Editors of this Work. To communicate only what in the present state of general improvement can be interesting or useful will be their principal object.

It is unnecessary here to add any arguments to demonstrate the general advantage of the present undertaking. The fact (as before observed) of no Abridgment whatever of the PHILOSOPHICAL TRANSACTIONS having been attempted for near

fifty years, during which lapse of time they have become gradually more interesting and important, must decide its necessity; and the universal benefit and convenience resulting from such a valuable work being rendered perfectly accessible to the Public, and in a convenient size, must be generally admitted.

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### CONDITIONS.

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NUMBER I. will be published on SATURDAY the Twenty-sixth of JUNE, 1802, and a Number will be published on every succeeding SATURDAY until the whole is completed.

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